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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/563,338	01/03/2006	Louis Lagler	P/4631-14	8840
2352 7590 01/06/2011 OSTROLENK FABER GERB & SOFFEN 1180 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS NEW YORK, NY 100368403				
EXAMINER KIRSCH, ANDREW THOMAS				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3781				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
01/06/2011		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/563,338

Applicant(s)

LAGLER, LOUIS

Examiner

ANDREW T. KIRSCH

Art Unit

3781

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 January 2009 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The finality of the previous action (filed 8/3/2010) has been withdrawn.
2. The amendment filed 12/3/2010, has been entered.

Claim Objections

3. The objection to claim 11 has been removed.
4. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: missing comma in line 10 "a first and second pair of film hinges, each pair defining..." Appropriate correction is required.
5. Claim 9 is objected to because of the following informalities: "spaced a distances s apart" on page 4, line 2 of claim 9 is interpreted as a typo to mean "spaced a distance s apart". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The rejections under 35 USC 112 to claim 1 have been removed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

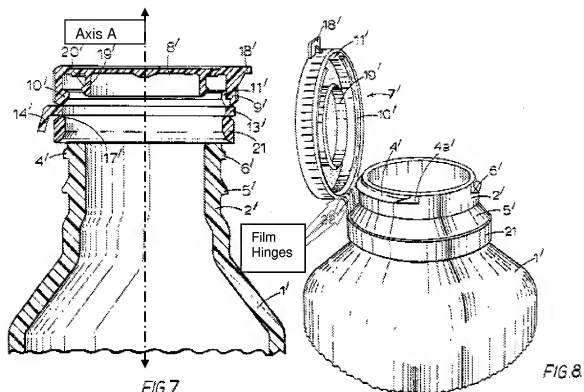
8. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 4,043,475 (Wheeler hereinafter) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,041,477 (Rentsch et al. hereinafter).

9. In re Claim 1, with reference to Figs. 7 and 8 below, Wheeler discloses: A closure moulded in closed position with

- a ring shaped body (21), the ring shaped body having an opening extending in an axial direction and having substantially the same diameter at both ends (see Fig. 7), comprising fixing means (17) to fix the closure on a neck (2') of a bottle (1'), the fixing means having substantially the same diameter as the opening (see Fig. 7), and

- a lid (7), the lid having substantially the same diameter as the ring shaped body (see fig. 7), the lid comprising a sealing means (19', 20') to seal an orifice (2') of the bottle, the sealing means directly contacting the neck of the bottle (column 3, lines 52-54), whereby the body (21) and the lid (7) are separated from each other by a circumferential gap (see Fig. 7), and

- a snap hinge comprising a first element (22) and a pair of film hinges (see Fig. 8) defining a plane, the pair of film hinges connecting the first element (22) to the lid (7) and to the body (21), whereby the plane is arranged substantially parallel to an axis A (Fig. 7) of the closure.



10. Wheeler does not disclose wherein the snap hinge comprises a first and second trapezoid element, or a second pair of film hinges defining a second plane.

11. However, with reference to Figs. 6 and 7 below, Rentsch et al. discloses a closure wherein a snap hinge comprises a first and second trapezoid element (5.3, 5.4), and a second pair of film hinges (10) defining a second plane.

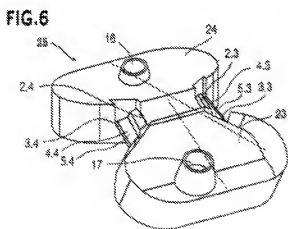


FIG. 7

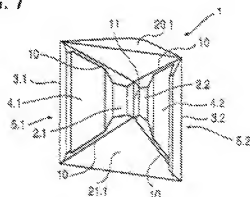


Fig. 7 of Rentsch et al.

12. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have shaped the element of the closure of Wheeler as a trapezoid and to have duplicated the number of elements as taught by Rentsch et al. for the purposes of strengthening the hinge joint and achieving a preferred snapping movement of the lid (column 3, lines 39-54).

13. In re Claim 2, Wheeler in view of Rentsch et al. disclose the claimed invention except wherein the first and second pair of film hinges are arranged at an angle Φ to each other, and the first and the second plane defined by the first and the second pair of film hinges are arranged at an angle ω , the angle Φ and an opening angle α of the closure is:

$$\phi / 2 = a \tan \left[\frac{\sin(\alpha)}{1 - \cos(\alpha)} \sin\left(\frac{\omega}{2}\right) \right]$$

14. However, Rentsch et al. discloses the first and second pair of film hinges are arranged at an angle Φ to each other, and the first and the second plane defined by the first and the second pair of film hinges are arranged at an angle ω , the angle Φ and an opening angle α of the closure is:

$$\phi / 2 = a \tan \left[\frac{\sin(\alpha)}{1 - \cos(\alpha)} \sin\left(\frac{\omega}{2}\right) \right] \quad (\text{column 13, lines 1-10})$$

15. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have designed the film hinges of Wheeler in view of Rentsch et al. according to the known formula taught by Rentsch for the purposes of ensuring two stress free states in the closed and open position during tilting (column 12, lines 58-61).

16. In re claim 3, Rentsch et al. discloses that the opening angle a is in the range of 180° and 240° (col. 3, lines 39-42; col. 4, lines 51-53).

17. In re claim 4, with reference to the Figs. above, Wheeler in view of Rentsch et al. disclose the claimed invention including wherein the film hinges (10, 11) and the inner periphery of the closure are designed such that they do not protrude over a main inner radius (inside of the ring shaped body) of the closure (see fig. 7 of Wheeler).

18. In re Claim 5, with reference to the Figs. above, Wheeler in view of Rentsch et al. discloses wherein the film hinges (6) are defined by a plane on the inside of the closure and the outside of the film hinges (10, 11) is defined by two flat boundary planes (see Fig. 5 of Rentsch et al.), arranged at an angle each other, and a cylindrical boundary surface having a radius (See Fig. 8 of Wheeler).

19. In re Claim 6, with reference to the Figs. above, Wheeler in view of Rentsch et al. discloses wherein the trapezoid elements (5.3, 5.4) are spaced apart by a cutout (see Fig. 5 of Rentsch et al.).

20. In re Claim 7, with reference to the Figs. above, Wheeler in view of Rentsch et al. discloses that the trapezoid elements (5.1, 5.2) are connected by a thin film hinge along a shorter edge (11).

21. In re Claim 8, with reference to the Figs. above, Wheeler in view of Rentsch et al. discloses wherein the body and the lid are connected by tamper evidence means (the webs above and below 13 which connect the lid and body), which are destroyed by initial opening.

22. In re Claim 9, with reference to the Figs. above, Wheeler in view of Rentsch et al. discloses that the body (24) and lid (23) are in the open position spaced a distance[s] s apart, whereby distance s is equal to 50% to 90% of the shorter edge of the trapezoid element (5.4, 5.3). In order for s to be 50% to 90% of the shorter edge of the trapezoid α must be between 120° and 154° or between 206° and 240° . Rentsch et al. discloses that the closure is capable of angles greater than 180° . Thus, the closure disclosed by Rentsch et al. can be in either range of angles when in the open position.

23. In re claim 10, with reference to the Figs. above, Wheeler in view of Rentsch et al. disclose the claimed invention including wherein said closure is characterized by a cylindrical outer wall section (see Fig. 8 of Wheeler).

24. In re claims 11 and 12, with reference to the figs. above, Wheeler in view of Rentsch et al. disclose: A closure, moulded in a closed position, comprising: a ring shaped body including an opening extending in an axial direction between a bottom end and a top end and having substantially a same diameter at both the bottom end and the top end (as in re claim 1); the ring shaped body further comprising a fixing device configured to fix the closure on a neck of a bottle, the ring shaped body configured such that the neck (2') of the bottle extends above the ring shaped body (21) (see Fig. 8 of Wheeler); a lid having substantially the same diameter as the ring shaped body; the lid further comprising a seal configured to seal an orifice of the bottle, the seal directly contacting the neck of the bottle; and a snap hinge configured to connect the ring shaped body to the lid such that the body and lid are separated from each other by a circumferential gap (as in re claim 1); the snap hinge further comprising a first and a

second trapezoid element and a first and second pair of film hinges, each pair of film hinges defining a first and a second plane, respectively, the first and the second pair connecting the first and the second trapezoid element to the lid and to the ring shaped body (as in re claim 1), whereby the first and the second plane are arranged substantially parallel to an axis A of the closure (as in re claim 1).

Response to Arguments

25. Applicant's arguments filed 8/27/2009 have been fully considered but they are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection necessitated by the amendment.

Conclusion

26. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANDREW T. KIRSCH whose telephone number is (571) 270-5723. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th, 6:30am-5pm, off Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Stashick can be reached on 571-272-4561. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Andrew T. Kirsch/

Examiner, Art Unit 3781

/Anthony Stashick/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3781